

# ACCOUNT

Of the Behaviour, Dying Speeches,  
and Execution of Mr. *John Murphey*, for High  
*Treason*; and *William May*, *John Sparcks*, *William*  
*Bishop*, *James Lewis*, and *Adam Foresith*, for Robbe-  
ry, Piracy and Felony; at the Execution-Dock: On  
Wednesday the 25th of November, 1696.

Licensed according to Order.

**T**O give my Reader first a short Account of the particular Crimes that brought these Unhappy Criminals to their untimely Ends: These five last *Pirates* are some of the Crew of the Famous, or rather Infamous Captain *Every*, that committed those crying and bloody Cruelties, in the *East-Indies*, upon the Coast of *Persia*, and the Kingdom of the *Great Mogol*; these most Barbarous and Inhumane Wretches, having first run away with one of his Majesties Men of War, call'd the *Charles*, and dismissed all that innocent part of the Ships Crew that refused to engage in their desperate Designs, immediately set out as *Pirates*, make their common Prey upon Friends and Foes, and rob all Mankind. Accordingly they perpetrated those unheard-of Barbarities, as such plundering and rifling all the Vessels they met with; Ravishing and Deflowering the Virgins and Women, and then turning them out naked, to starve upon shore, amongst Rocks and Desarts. But above all, nothing was so horrid, as their Surprising a Ship of the King of the *Indies*, where they first took away an infinite Treasure, most inhumanely Ravish a Young Princess, and the rest of her Female Train, and afterwards left the Ship disarm'd and disabled, floating as a wreck upon the Sea, with near a 1000 Souls on Board, thereby exposed to inevitable Starving.

This unparallel'd Outrage greatly prejudiced the Honourable *East-India* Company, the *Grand Mogul* demanding Satisfaction of them for this Depredation and Villany.

After publick Proclamation made for their Apprehension, several of them were accordingly taken, and *William May*, *Joseph Dawson*, *John Sparcks*, *William Bishop*, and *James Lewis* were brought upon their Tryals on the 19th of October, before the Honourable Sir *Charles Hedges*, Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, together with the Lord Chief Justice Holt, &c. At which time, notwithstanding *Joseph Dawson* frankly and candidly acknowledged his Crimes and pleaded Guilty; however the sway (much to Admiration) whether out of Tenderness, in relation to not full enough Evidence, or what other unknown Reason, acquitted them. Nevertheless they were afterwards brought upon a new Tryal, and such full and ample Testimony came against them; as that they received the just Sentence of Death, and this suffered accordingly.

Capt. *Vaughan* and *John Murphey*, though their Crimes were much of the same Nature, viz. For their Rapines upon the Seas, yet their Arraignment lay higher, viz. For no less a Crime then *Treason*; as that being Native Subjects to the King, contrary to their Allegiance, they had join'd with our French Enemies, and committed Hostilities upon the Subjects of England. Upon their Tryals it appeared, that Captain *Vaughan* had received a Commission from the French King, as Captain of a Privateer; and that he with oth-



vol Forces, had attack'd and taken his Majesties Ship the *Diamond*. and carried her Prize into *France*, for which Fact, both he and *Murphy* received Sentence of Death, as Guilty of *High Treason*.

After their Tryals and Conviction, though they appear'd very resolute before, yet upon the certainty of their approaching Death, they behaved themselves with a little more modesty, and some signs of a good preparation for another World. They received the Favour of a considerable Time to prepare for Death, and being this 25<sup>th</sup> of *November* all convey'd, (*Murphy* being drawn on a Sledge) to the Execution Dock, between the Hours of three and four, they were all Executed, Captain *Vaughan* only being Respited from the present Execution to Suffer at *Tyburn*.

*Murphy* appeared the most undaunted, though to give them their due they seem'd to be all Masters of as much Courage as was possible, at the sight of so infamous a Death before their Eyes. *Murphy* being an *Irishman*, and a strong Zealot for the late King and the *French Interest*, seem'd to have little Regret against his Cause, which he seem'd to adhere to, to the last, but rather maimed the Misfortunes of his Life, and other private Sins, which he thought might in a high measure bring him to this fatal End, as judging those Errours of his wicked Life more capital then the Crime for which he dyed.

*William May*, was much inclined to Penitence, and express'd some sense of his shameful End, and of the more shameful Crimes that brought him to that ignominious Death.

*John Sparcks*, likewise express'd a due sense of his wicked Life, in particular to the most horrid Barbarities that he had committed, which though upon the Persons of Heathens and Infidels, such as the foremention'd poor *Indians*, so inhumanly rifled and treated so unmercifully; declaring, that his Eyes were now open to his Crimes, and that he justly suffer'd Death for such Inhumanity, much more then his Injustice and Robbery, in Stealing and Running away with one of his Majesties Ships, which was of the two his lesser concern.

*William Bishop*, said but little, but own'd himself as deep a sinner as the others; and that his three years Roving upon the Seas, was now a very Melancholy Thought to his Soul, and so much the more to consider the Brutality of his Crimes, as being one of a more Barbarous Crew than the Generality of Offenders of that kind.

*Adam Forefish*, was very Penitent, and truly own'd that besides the Guilt of his Offences, and the present capital Punishment, his Wicked Life, attended with the many Hardships and Hazards he had undergone in his Robberies, was little less than a Punishment; for wickedness (let it prosper never so much) brings great many troubles and afflictions along with it.

*James Lewis* acknowledged his many Transgressions, and particularly the Offence for which they all dyed. In fine, they had all the Favour at the place of Execution, of giving them time to offer up their necessary Prayers to Almighty God: and then all suffer'd according to their Sentence.

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